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Pike merely nodded his head, and Hawcastle came up to him. "It is a pity that there should have been any misunderstanding in the matter of your ward's betrothal," he said, and Pike smiled grimly. "Oh, I wouldn't call it a misunderstanding," he said, and the earl went "It would ill become a father to press upon the subject of his son's merits" he began, but Pike cut him short. "I won't talk with you about him,"

he said. "I don't want to hurt your feelings." Hawcastle glared at him and was about to reply when Mariano entered with a letter on a tray, which he handed to the lawyer, who regarded it curiously. There was a growing menace in the earl's attitude, and as his anger

grew his suavity grew with it. "There is another matter to which I want to call your attention," he went on, and Pike answered him at once. "I'll talk about anything else with you," he replied and looked up to see Ethel coming down the steps. She

came forward to the earl and said: "You wished me to come here?" "I wish to tell you that I see light breaking through the clouds. Have another talk with our friend here, and, elieve me, all will be well."

With a bow he left the garden, and Ethel stood staring after him. Pike looked up quickly from the letter he was reading and crossed over to her. "I'm glad you've come," he said.
"I've got something here I want to read to you. When I got your letter at home I wrote to Jim Cooley, our vice consul in London, to look up those Hawcastle folks and write me here how they stand."

"You did that!" she cried in anger You had the audacity to pry into the affairs of the Earl of Hawcastle!"
"Why, I'd 'a' done that if it'd been

the governor of Indiana himself," he replied, with surprise. "Besides, Jim Cooley's 'home folks.' His office used to be right next door to mine in Kokomo. I haven't opened the letter yet, but I haven't much doubt but Jim 'll have some statements in it that'll show you I'm right about these people."
"How do you know that?" she de-

manded heatedly. "Because I've had experience enough

"In Kokomo?" she asked scornfully. "Yes, ma'am," he answered, "There's just as many kinds of people in Kokomo as there is in Pekin, and I didn't serve a term in the legislature without learning to pick underhand men at sight. Now, that earl, let alone his having a bad eye-his ways are too much on the stripe of T. Cuthbert Bentley's to suit me. T. Cuthbert was a Chicago gentleman, with a fur lined overcoaf, that opened up a bank in our town, and when he caught the Canadian express three months later all he left in Kokomo was the sign on the

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(Continued.)

him words of the utmost importance.

She had temporarily forgotten her

deafness, or else the agitation that pos-

bordering upon "a state of mind."

den Lady Creech said to him:

asked, pointing to the village.

Hawcastle took him by the shoulder.

"What's the row, sir?" he asked, and

"My dear young man," he said, "I

congratulate you that you and your

sister need no longer submit to an odious dictation."

"Looks to me as if it was going to

"Good afternoon, Mr. Pike," answer-

ed the earl and motioned the others to

made a gesture of impatience.

smiled genially and observed:

came slowly forward.

the earl smiled.

clear up cold."

languidly.

demanded.

hear well, I saw enough."

sessed her had removed it, for she was

She walked him back to the hotel

when she found him and talked con-

tinuously all the way, and as she

talked his excitement grew to match

her own. As they approached the gar-

"I couldn't hear distinctly, for they

CHAPTER XIII.

THE LETTER.

Press Association

there, here's the letter. Read it for In the meanance one suddenly rejuyourself."

venated Lady Creech had found her He handed it to her and watched her brother-in-law and had imparted to while she broke the seal and then began to read:

Dear Daw—The earldom of Hawcastle is one of the oldest in the kingdom, and the St. Aubyns have distinguished themselves in the forefront of English battles from Agincourt and Crecy to Sebastopol. The present holder of the title came into it by accident. He was a younger son's younger son and had spent some years in Russia in business under another name. Nothing here in his English record is seriously against him, though everything he has is mortgaged to the handle.

She finished with a look of triumph mumbled their words, but upon my soul, Hawcastle, even if I couldn't "What a terrible indictment!" she said scornfully. "So that was what you counted on to convince me of my mistake? I shall tell Lord Hawcastle



What a terrible indictment!" she said.

Pike shook his head sadly. "No, I wouldn't do that, because I won't take up any settlements with

him or any one else." "Have you after this any objection to my alliance with Mr. St. Aubyn?" He was about to say more, but at she inquired, her anger at white heat. that moment Daniel came down the "It isn't an alliance with Mr. St. steps and walked across the grass to Aubyn you're after," he replied calmthe motor. As he passed the group he ly. "You're after something there ain't anything to. If I'd let you buy

"Almeric, find your betrothed and that you will be willing to take up the bring her here," he said. And the matter of the settlement the moment young man trotted off slowly. Horace his solicitor arrives."





"HE'D TELL YOU HE'D SEE YOU IN HADES FIRST."

what you want you'd find it as empty as the judgment day the morning after. You think because I'm a jay country lawyer I don't understand. we've got the same thing at home. There was little Annie Hoffmeyer. Her pa was a carpenter and doing well, but Annie could not get into the Kokomo Ladies' Literary society, and her name didn't show up in the society column four or five times every Saturday morning, so she gets her pa to give her the money to marry Artie Seymour, the minister's son, and a regular minister's son he was! Almost broke Annie's heart and her pa's, too, but he let her have her way and went in debt and bought them a house on Main street. That was two years

Pike paused momentarily. "Annie's working at the deepo candy stand now," he resumed, "and Artie's working at the hotel bar-in frontleft in Kokomo was the sign on the drinking up what's left of old man front door. That was painted on. But. Hoffmeyer's settlement!"

Mother says:

(To be Continued.)



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She nume away from him in a temper and then wheeled on him in a

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"And you say you understand-you who couple the name of a tippling yokel with that of a St. Aubyn, whose ancestors have fought on every field of battle from Crecy and Agincourt to the Crimea!"

"But you won't see much of his anestors!" complained Pike. "He bears their name," she anwered

"That's it, and it's the name you want. Nobody could look at you and not know it wasn't him! It's the name! And I'd let you buy it if it would make you happy—if you didn't have to take the people with it. Don't you see they're counting on it? The earl-he's counting on living on you." The Indianian became excited. "Why, a Terre Haute pickpocket could see that! And this old Lady Creech-she's counting on it, and this Frenchwoman that's with them-isn't she trying to land your brother? The whole kit and boofile of them are on the track of John Simpson's money!"

"I gave Almeric my promise. It was forever, and I shall keep it," she answered slowly, as if she had been impressed with his earnestness. He looked at her quietly. "I'm not going to let you," he re-

"Then I'll throw your interference to

the winds. I shall marry without your

"Do you think they'd let you?" Pike asked quickly. For a moment she stood still, and then came the sound of the guitars from over the wall, Pike went on after a time.

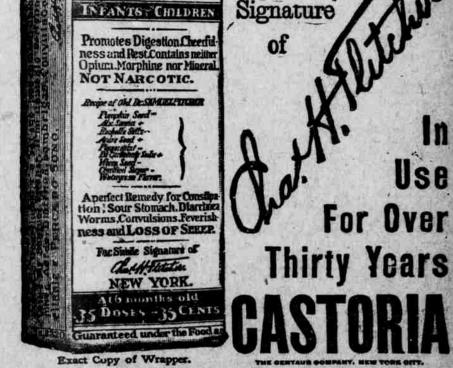
"Sounds kind of foreign and lonesome," he said. "I'd rather hear something that sounded more like home-Sweet Genevieve, for instance. You

know it, don't you?"
"I used to," she answered, hanging her head. "It's old fashioned and com-

mon, isn't it?" "That's why I like it, I guess," he answered. "I couldn't get you to sing it for me before I go home, could I?" She looked at him thoughtfully for a

"I'm afraid not," she answered and went quickly into the hotel, leaving him looking after her curiously.

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